

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 00825 051655Z

42

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 EB-07 IGA-01 L-02 INR-07

/044 W

----- 030342

P 051505Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2849

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 0825

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, SY, US

SUBJECT: PL 480 TITLE I WHEAT

REF: STATE 045280

1. SUMMARY. I BELIEVE WE CAN AND SHOULD PROCEED WITH OFFER OF 10,000 M.T. ADDITIONAL RICE THIS FY AND AT SAME TIME EXPLAIN LIMITS ON WHEAT AND OUR INTENTION TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL WHEAT EARLY IN FY 76. WE HAVE MOVED RAPIDLY TO ASSIST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF SYRIA AND I BELIEVE SARG WILL UNDERSTAND OUR PROBLEM WITH WHEAT THIS FY. RECOMMEND WE BE AUTHORIZED BEGIN RICE NEGOTIATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. END SUMMARY.

2. DESPITE DISCUSSION OF BOTH WHEAT AND RICE ADD-ON DURING SECRETARY'S FEB 13 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ASAD, BELIEVE WE CAN SUCCESSFULLY SLIP WHEAT INTO FY 76 WITHOUT SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS. EXCEPT FOR MY JANUARY 30 DISCUSSION WITH MINISTER OF ECONOMY IMADI, SARG OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN CONCENTRATING ON IMPLEMENTATION OF EXISTING PL-480 AGREEMENT AND HAVE NOT RAISED WITH EMBOFFS OR AGATT MATTER OF PENDING ADD-ON REQUEST DESPITE SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES TO DO SO. I THINK WE CAN AND SHOULD PROCEED NOW

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 DAMASC 00825 051655Z

TO NEGOTIATE AND SIGN 10,000 TON RICE AGREEMENT. WHEN

IMADI RAISES ADDITIONAL 25,000 TON WHEAT REQUEST, I WOULD EXPLAIN WE ARE NOT YET CERTAIN OF OUR OWN SUPPLY SITUATION, WHICH IS TIGHT, AND BELIEVE IT ADVISABLE TO PROCEED SEPARATELY WITH RICE. I COULD ALSO SAY IT IS OUR CURRENT READING THA WHEAT MAY NOT BECOME AVAILABLE UNTIL EARLY FY 1976.

3. RECOMMEND THAT IN RESPONSE TO DAMASCUS 380, STATE/USDA PROVIDE APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS/AQTHORIZATION FOR EMBASSY TO RETURN TO IMADI WITH PROPOSAL FOR EXCHANGE OF NOTES, AMENDING PART II OF NOVEMBER 20 AGREEMENT TO INCREASE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF RICE FROM 25,000 M.T. TO 35,000 M.T. IN GOING TO IMADI, I WOULD PLAN TO REVIEW USUAL MARKETING REQUIREMENTS (UMR) FOR RICE. WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT IF YOU AGREE TO THESE SUGGESTIONS, NEW RICE OFFER AND AGREEMENT SHOULD IN NO WAY DELAY FURTHER USDA ISSUANCE OF PURCHASE AUTHORIZATIONS (PA'S) AND APPROVAL OF TENDERS ON CURRENT AMOUNT OF WHEAT AND RICE.

4. ALSO WISH TO NOTE THAT WHEN I RAISE THIS WITH IMADI, HE NO DOUBT WILL ASK ABOUT OUR DELAYED SUBMISSION TO HIM OF ARABIC VERSION OF NOVEMBER 20 AGREEMENT, WHICH ALSO HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF OFFICIAL NOTE FROM SARG. WE CABLED OUR CHANGES TO DEPT FEBRUARY 9 (DAMASCUS 474), BUT STATE 35928 (FEBRUARY 18) ONLY GAVE US INTERIM, NON-RESPONSIVE REPLY. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP.  
MURPHY

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** WHEAT, RICE, FOOD ASSISTANCE, PL 480 TITLE 1  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975DAMASC00825  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750077-0349  
**From:** DAMASCUS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750381/aaaacvgj.tel  
**Line Count:** 88  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 045280  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <20 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <05 DEC 2003 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PL 480 TITLE I WHEAT  
**TAGS:** EAID, SY, US, PLO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006